

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a toothbrush ~~having needle-shaped bristle tapered only on one end~~, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting ~~non tapered portions~~ one end of each of the bristles into ~~through~~ holes [[of]] formed in a head insert;

fixing the bristles into the head insert; and

~~thermally fusing the non tapered portions of the bristles protruding from the bottom of the head insert, thereby fixing the bristles to the head insert; and~~

attaching ~~the bottom~~ a base side of the head insert to ~~[[the]]~~ a head of the toothbrush,

wherein the method further comprises:

using polyester bristles, one end of the polyester bristles is needle shaped and another end is non needle shaped; and

in a toothbrush having needle shaped bristles, the needle shaped bristles are tapered on one end thereof so that the non needle shaped ends of the bristles protrude through holes in the base side of the head insert.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the head insert is attached in an opening formed in the head of the toothbrush in the attaching step.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the head insert is attached in the opening by one of ultrasonic bonding and high frequency bonding.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of adjusting the tip thickness of the bristles fixed in the head insert by cutting the tips of the bristles and grinding the cut

tips.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the tapered tips of the bristles are 0.01 to 0.08 mm thick.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the tapered tips of the bristles are 0.01 to 0.03 mm thick.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the tapered tips of the bristles are 0.03 to 0.08 mm thick.

15-16. (Cancelled)